



March 2020

Dear Downtown Peekskill Property Owner,

Unprecedented times call for unprecedented action and compassion.

While we know everyone is being impacted in some way by the limits placed on business to prevent the spread of COVID-19, small businesses are especially being hardest hit. With everything being shut down, Downtown Peekskill is already suffering.

Governor Cuomo announced a moratorium on commercial and residential eviction proceedings effective immediately and until further notice. Other steps may be forthcoming. While we fully recognize you have your own challenges during this health crisis, we are asking that you consider offering some additional relief to your commercial tenants. We are all in this together and Downtown Peekskill will only survive if we all work together.

Please consider giving a grace period for your commercial tenants and artists to pay their monthly rent, or agree to waive late fees for the next 30, 60 or 90 days. We are greatly concerned that some businesses may not survive this crisis and a little flexibility and compassion now may help our commercial tenants weather this economic storm. They—and we—would appreciate it.

As the leading advocate for business in Downtown Peekskill, we are working with city and county leaders, and we are in touch with our counterparts across the state, to implement best practices to help our business community. We are pursuing every avenue to identify assistance that can be accessed by our small businesses and we are communicating that information to our BID members.

The BID has taken a number of steps, including:

- Identifying and promoting businesses that have deals on gift card purchases, enhanced and convenient delivery, curbside pick up services or advanced online sales
- Encouraging local banks to offer small unsecured low interest lines of credit to businesses and landlords, cease foreclosures, and waive penalties on early withdrawals.
- Sharing official city information as well as benefits, services, and programs to help small businesses.
- Working with City of Peekskill to suspend or ease burdensome ordinances, suspend non-emergency code enforcement, and request a grace period for property tax payments or waiver of late fees and penalties for property owners in the BID who are late in paying their property taxes
- Work with appropriate agencies and entities to establish a fund (emergency loans or grants) to help downtown business owners to cover payroll, supplies, rent etc.

We would like to keep you updated on our efforts and we request that you supply us with an email address so that we may send you updates via email. Please send your contact information to our Executive Director Bill Powers at peekskillbid1@gmail.com. Please also email him if you have any questions or suggestions.

Please also like our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/PeekskillBusinessImprovementDistrict/

We are in uncharted territory, but let's make today the first day of Peekskill's economic recovery.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian Fassett', is located below the 'Sincerely' text on the left side.

Brian Fassett
President, Board of Directors
Peekskill BID

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Powers', is located below the 'Sincerely' text on the right side.

William J. Powers
Executive Director
Peekskill BID